1 2 3 4 5	Mark B. Frazier (State Bar No. 107221) mfrazier@rutan.com Corey H. Collins (State Bar No. 318646) (admission in the Northern District pending) ccollins@rutan.com RUTAN & TUCKER, LLP 611 Anton Boulevard, Suite 1400 Costa Mesa, California 92626-1931 Telephone: 714-641-5100 Facsimile: 714-546-9035				
6 7	Attorneys for Plaintiff YEUNG BING KWONG KENNETH	•			
8	UNITED STATES	DISTRICT COURT			
9	NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA				
10					
11 12	YEUNG BING KWONG KENNETH, an individual,	Case No. COMPLAINT FOR:			
13	Plaintiff, vs.	DERIVATIVE CLAIMS:			
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27	YEUNG CHI SHING HOLDING (DELAWARE) INC., a Delaware Corporation; YEUNG PING LEUNG HOWARD, and individual; YEUNG LUK PUI LAN AGNES, and individual; FUNG CHUNG YEE CAROLINE, an individual; CHEUNG KIT MAN MELINA, an individual; MT. OSCAR LIMITED, a Hong Kong entity; and DOES 1 through 100, inclusive, Defendants.	 (1) 18 U.S.C. § 1962(c) (CIVIL RICO); (2) 18 U.S.C. § 1962(d) (CIVIL RICO CONSPIRACY); (3) BREACH OF THE DUTY OF LOYALTY; (4) BREACH OF THE DUTY OF GOOD FAITH; (5) BREACH OF THE DUTY OF CARE; (6) DECLARATORY JUDGMENT – THE "ADVISOR FEES" WERE ILLEGALLY PAID IN VIOLATION OF FEDERAL AND STATE LAW. INDIVIDUAL CLAIMS: (7) 8 DEL. CODE, § 225 (ATTEMPTED WRONGFUL REMOVAL AS DIRECTOR); (8) DECLARATORY JUDGMENT – KENNETH IS NOT LIABLE FOR DIRECTOR DEFENDANTS' ACTIONS. [JURY TRIAL DEMANDED] 			
28					

2763/034901-0001 12750078.9 a12/19/18

Plaintiff Yeung Bing Kwong Kenneth ("Kenneth") alleges as follows for his 1 2 Complaint derivatively on behalf of nominal defendant Yeung Chi Sing Holding 3 (Delaware) Inc. ("Holding Company"), and against defendants Yeung Ping Leung Howard ("Howard"); Yeung Luk Pui Lan Agnes ("Agnes"); Fung Chung Yee Caroline ("Fung"); Cheung Kit Man Melina ("Cheung"); and Mount Oscar Limited ("Mt. Oscar") (collectively, "Defendants")¹: 6 7

INTRODUCTION

- This Complaint concerns an earnings stripping and tax evasion scheme 1. initiated in 2015 and orchestrated by some – but not all – members of a foreignbased family and their advisors, through the use of multiple levels of wholly-owned or controlled foreign and domestic entities, and facilitated (unwittingly) by a major U.S.-based international law firm (the "Earnings Stripping Scheme"). The Earnings Stripping Scheme involves the payment of "advisor fees" (the "Advisor Fees") by a U.S.-based company (Holding Company) to a related Hong Kong company (Mt. Oscar), purportedly in exchange for "advisor services" for the management of U.S. real estate holdings (the "Advisor Services") that were never actually provided, or were not of reasonably equivalent value to the Advisor Fees that were paid. Defendants caused Holding Company to pay these Advisor Fees in order (1) to evade paying required United States federal and state taxes; and (2) to allow certain members of the foreign-based family to receive a much greater percentage of corporate funds than they normally would receive based upon their percentage shareholder interests in Holding Company's ultimate Hong Kong parent company, Yeung Chi Shing Estates, Ltd ("Estates").
- 2. Plaintiff Kenneth brings this lawsuit derivatively on behalf of the U.S.based Holding Company through which this Earnings Stripping Scheme was and continues to be perpetrated by Holding Company's directors and their advisors, and

Rutan & Tucker, LLP attorneys at law

8

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

Case No. COMPLAINT

Kenneth, Howard, and Agnes are referred to by their first names in this Complaint to avoid confusion. No disrespect is intended through the use of Kenneth, Howard, and Agnes' first names.

Mt. Oscar, to recover damages for the harm Holding Company has suffered, and for the appointment of one or more independent directors to protect Holding Company from future mismanagement. Kenneth also brings this lawsuit on his own behalf to redress wrongful efforts to remove him as a director of Holding Company, and to obtain the Court's determination that he is not responsible for the wrongful actions of the individually-named Defendants.

- 3. Holding Company is a Delaware Chapter C corporation subject to taxation at the corporate level and is owned by a single shareholder subject to taxation at the shareholder level. Holding Company is a subsidiary of Estates, a Hong Kong limited company that owns and controls income-generating real estate property in the United States (and throughout the world) through a vast network of subsidiaries, including Holding Company. Estates is owned by Plaintiff Kenneth (through companies owned by Kenneth), Kenneth's siblings (including Defendant Howard), certain private charitable foundations, and other individuals. The respective ownership interests in Estates are depicted in Exhibit 1 attached to this Complaint.
- 4. Holding Company is Estates' highest level U.S. subsidiary. Holding Company serves as the parent company to numerous other U.S. subsidiary entities that own all of Estates' income-producing U.S. real estate assets, which are mainly located in California and New York. These U.S. real estate assets are worth hundreds of millions, if not billions, of dollars. Estate's relationships to Holding Company and Estate's other subsidiaries are depicted in Exhibit 2 attached to this Complaint.
- 5. To reduce Holding Company's U.S. taxable income, current members of Holding Company's board of directors Defendants Howard, Fung, Agnes, and Cheung (collectively, the "Director Defendants") concocted, conspired to participate in and actually enacted the Earnings Stripping Scheme, through which Holding Company claimed deductions for Advisor Fees paid to Estate's related

Rutan & Tucker, LLP attorneys at law

7

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

26

27

Hong Kong subsidiary known as Mount Oscar in exchange for certain Advisor

Services that Mt. Oscar purportedly provided to Holding Company concerning U.S.

real estate. Holding Company's income was paid out pre-tax as Advisor Fees in the

manner described in this Complaint, as demonstrated in Mt. Oscar's Financial

Statements which are attached as Exhibit 3 to this Complaint. The income used to

pay the Advisor Fees was derived from U.S. real estate, and payments were made

from the U.S. internationally through the use of wires and the U.S. mail to foreign

locations such as Hong Kong.

- 6. During the relevant timeframe, Kenneth was a director of Holding Company and Mt. Oscar and is unaware of Mt. Oscar or anyone on Mt. Oscar's behalf ever performing any Advisor Services for the benefit of Holding Company. Kenneth did, however, receive large payments purporting to be for Advisor Services. But Kenneth was never asked to perform Advisor Services in exchange for the payments he received and never performed any such Advisor Services. Kenneth is unaware of Mt. Oscar, or any recipient of Advisor Fees payments, *ever* providing actual Advisor Services to Holding Company. Yet, almost US\$14,000,000 in Advisor Fees were paid by Holding Company directly to the board members of Mt. Oscar (and certain other individuals) for these supposed Advisor Services. Kenneth is informed and believes that Holding Company intended to deduct and has deducted these Advisor Fees in its federal and state tax returns to reduce its taxable U.S. income.
- 7. Kenneth, as a board member of Estates, Holding Company, and Mt. Oscar, came to have severe misgivings about the legality and propriety of the Advisor Fees that Holding Company was paying to Mt. Oscar. Consistent with his fiduciary duties as a director of Estates, Holding Company, and Mt. Oscar, Kenneth investigated the Advisor Fees in an attempt to determine whether or not Mt. Oscar or the Director Defendants were actually providing any Advisor Services to Holding Company in exchange for the Advisor Fees.

Rutan & Tucker, LLP attorneys at law

- 8. In retaliation for Kenneth's investigation, the Director Defendants have attempted to improperly remove Kenneth as a director of Estates and Mt. Oscar. Unbeknownst to Kenneth, Director Defendants also have attempted to remove Kenneth as a director of Holding Company by a vote of the Director Defendants, in direct violation of 8 Delaware Code, § 225, which requires that a director be removed by a vote of the shareholder(s).
 - 9. As a shareholder of Estates, Kenneth has the right to derivatively assert Holding Company's (a subsidiary of Estates) rights in this action against Director Defendants Howard, Fung, Agnes, and Cheung to protect Holding Company's rights relative to the Earnings Stripping Scheme. Kenneth therefore derivatively asserts claims on behalf of Holding Company for (1) Civil RICO pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1962(c); (2) Civil RICO conspiracy pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1962(d); (3) breach of the duty of loyalty; (4) breach of the duty of good faith; (5) breach of the duty of care; and (6) declaratory relief against the Director Defendants.
 - 10. Kenneth also individually asserts claims for (7) attempted wrongful removal of Kenneth as a director of Holding Company; and (8) declaratory relief against Holding Company itself and the Director Defendants.

SUBJECT MATTER JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 11. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 because it arises under 18 U.S.C. § 1961 et. seq, the Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act ("RICO"). This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over Kenneth's state law claims asserted derivatively on behalf of Holding Company and individually on his own behalf under 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a) and 28 U.S.C. § 2201.
- 12. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1965 and 28 U.S.C. § 1391 because the only defendant that is a citizen of the United States in this action Holding Company has its principal place of business in San Francisco and is therefore a resident of California and subject to personal jurisdiction in this

Rutan & Tucker, LLP attorneys at law

7

8

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

23

24

25

26

27

1 state. 2 THE PARTIES 3 13. Plaintiff Kenneth is a citizen of both Canada and Hong Kong, presently residing in Hong Kong. Kenneth was and is a shareholder – and is a former director 5 - of Estates. 14. Estates owns and controls Holding Company, as follows: 6 7 Estates owns 65.70% of Oro Holdings Ltd., a British Virgin Islands entity ("Oro BVI"). 8 Oro BVI, in turn wholly owns Oro Holdings Inc., a Barbados entity 9 10 ("Oro Barbados"). > Oro Barbados, in turn, wholly owns Holding Company. 11 A more detailed diagram of the corporate structure of Estates and its subsidiaries is 12 also attached hereto as Exhibit 2. 13 14 Plaintiff Kenneth was also a director of Holding Company (and a number of other Estates' subsidiaries) until sometime in 2017, when it appears from 15 Holding Company's Delaware franchise tax reports that he was improperly removed 16 17 as a director without any notice. 18 16. Nominal Defendant Holding Company is a Delaware corporation that has its principal place of business in San Francisco, California. Holding Company 19 was formed by Kenneth's late father Yeung Chi Wan ("Chi Wan") in 1981 to invest 20 21 in U.S. real estate. Holding Company serves as the parent corporation to a large 22 number of entities that hold U.S. real estate, approximately two-thirds of which are 23 organized under California law and have their principal place of business in 24 California, as indicated in Exhibit 2. 25 Upon information and belief, Defendant Howard is a citizen of The 17. United Kingdom and Hong Kong. At all relevant times, Howard served and 26 currently serves as a director of Holding Company. Howard undertook the acts 27 alleged herein with the intent and knowledge that his acts were directed at the U.S.

Rutan & Tucker, LLP attorneys at law

and would have effects in the U.S. Howard's acts include, but are not limited to, 1 directing and participating in the management of Holding Company's U.S. operations, concealing from or misrepresenting information to a U.S. law firm to 3 obtain its assistance in connection with the Earnings Stripping Scheme, initiating 4 5 and implementing the Earnings Stripping Scheme in the U.S., defrauding the U.S. Government of tax revenue, payment of improper Advisor Fees derived from U.S. real estate to himself and to others, and attempting to improperly remove Plaintiff Kenneth from Holding Company's board of directors in order to continue with the Earnings Stripping Scheme. Upon information and belief, Howard also currently serves as the director of numerous Holding Company subsidiaries, including Cohen Investment (Delaware), Inc.; Edenville Properties (Delaware), Inc.; RP 73, Inc.; 11 YCS Investments; S.C. Forty Acres, Inc.; Young Chi Shing, Inc.; Youngsville 12 Development, Inc.; YCS Golf Properties, Inc.; Youngsville Holdings, Inc.; Pine Grant Investment Co. Ltd; Edenvale Holdings, Inc.; YCS NEVADA 15 INCORPORATED; and Hayward 1900, Inc., all of which are United States-based subsidiaries of Holding Company with their principal place of business at 170 16 Maiden Lane, San Francisco, California. Defendant Howard does stay or has 17 authorization to stay at real properties owned by Holding Company or its 18 subsidiaries in California. 19 20 Upon information and belief, Defendant Fung is a citizen of Canada 21 and Hong Kong. At all relevant times, Fung served and currently serves as a 22 director of Holding Company. Fung undertook the acts alleged herein with the intent and knowledge that her acts were directed at the U.S. and would have effects 23 24 in the U.S. Fung's acts include, but are not limited to, directing and participating in the management of Holding Company's U.S. operations, concealing from or 25

Stripping Scheme in the U.S., defrauding the U.S. Government of tax revenue, and

with the Earnings Stripping Scheme, initiating and implementing the Earnings

misrepresenting information to a U.S. law firm to obtain its assistance in connection

26

27

payment of improper Advisor Fees derived from U.S. real estate to herself and to others.

3 | U | 5 | A | C | 6 | se | 7 | ac | 6 | 9 | di | 10 | ol | 11 | ol | 12 | an | 13 | G | 14 | re | 15 | K

16

17

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

19. Upon information and belief, Defendant Agnes is a citizen of The United States of America and Hong Kong. Agnes is the widow of Yeung Bing Kin Alan ("Alan"), one of Kenneth's deceased brothers. At all relevant times, Agnes served and currently serves as a director of Holding Company. Agnes undertook the acts alleged herein with the intent and knowledge that her acts were directed at the U.S. and would have effects in the U.S. Agnes' acts include, but are not limited to, directing and participating in the management of Holding Company's U.S. operations, concealing from or misrepresenting information to a U.S. law firm to obtain its assistance in connection with the Earnings Stripping Scheme, initiating and implementing the Earnings Stripping Scheme in the U.S., defrauding the U.S. Government of tax revenue, payment of improper Advisor Fees derived from U.S. real estate to herself and to others, and attempting to improperly remove Plaintiff Kenneth from Holding Company's board of directors in order to continue with the Earnings Stripping Scheme.

20. Upon information and belief, Defendant Cheung is a citizen of Hong Kong. At all relevant times, Cheung served and currently serves as a director of Holding Company. Cheung undertook the acts alleged herein with the intent and knowledge that her acts were directed at the U.S. and would have effects in the U.S. Cheung's acts include, but are not limited to, directing and participating in the management of Holding Company's U.S. operations, concealing from or misrepresenting information to a U.S. law firm to obtain its assistance in connection with the Earnings Stripping Scheme, initiating and implementing the Earnings Stripping Scheme in the U.S., defrauding the U.S. Government of tax revenue, payment of improper Advisor Fees derived from U.S. real estate to herself and to others, and attempting to improperly remove Plaintiff Kenneth from Holding Company's board of directors in order to continue with the Earnings Stripping

Rutan & Tucker, LLP attorneys at law

Scheme.

21. Mt. Oscar is a citizen of Hong Kong. Mt. Oscar undertook the acts alleged herein with the intent and knowledge that its acts were directed at the U.S. and would have effects in the U.S. Mt. Oscar's acts include, but are not limited to, facilitating the Earnings Stripping Scheme, defrauding the U.S. Government of tax revenues, receipt of improper Advisor Fees and/or facilitating payment of such Advisor Fees to the Director Defendants, and conspiring with and aiding and abetting the other Defendants to initiate and perpetuate the Earnings Stripping Scheme.

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

- 22. Kenneth is one of seven (7) children (five sons and two daughters) of the late Chi Wan and Kwok Yan Chee ("Yan Chee").
- 23. In 1962, Kenneth's father Chi Wan formed Estates, a Hong Kong limited company. Since 1962, the Yeung family has used Estates as a holding company for their investments in a variety of worldwide assets held in subsidiary entities. A significant portion of Estates' assets consist of United States real estate, almost exclusively located in California and New York.
- 24. In order for Estates to own and control the U.S. real estate investments, Chi Wan formed Holding Company in 1981. Holding Company is the parent company of a vast network of U.S.-based subsidiaries that own U.S. real estate assets. Estates' control of this network of subsidiaries, through and including Holding Company, is reflected in Exhibit 2. On information and belief, Estates' U.S. real estate assets have a value of approximately US\$1,000,0000,000.
- 25. Yeung family members including Kenneth have controlled Estates, and hence all its subsidiaries, by serving as directors of Estates and other Estates subsidiaries (including Holding Company and Mt. Oscar) throughout Estates' existence.

28 | / / /

Rutan & Tucker, LLP attorneys at law

- 26. Moreover, certain family members including Kenneth also own and exert control over Estates and its subsidiaries as shareholders of Estates. The current shareholders of Estates include Kenneth (through corporate nominees), his younger brother Howard (through corporate nominees), the estate of Kenneth's late brothers (through personal representatives or corporate nominees), and several family or trust foundation companies. Some of these shareholders are charity organizations that Kenneth's father Chi Wan hoped to support through the success of Estates' business (the "Charity Shareholders"). A chart identifying the various shareholders of Estates is attached hereto as Exhibit 1.
- 27. Sometime prior to 2015, Estates acquired a 99.5% controlling interest in the Hong Kong company Mt. Oscar. Upon information and belief, Mt. Oscar was a "shelf company" at the time it was acquired, meaning that it was created years earlier but conducted no business activity until it was acquired by Estates. These years of existence create the facade of legitimacy for the corporation, and a facade of legitimacy for whatever purposes its later owners chose. Tellingly, even after Mt. Oscar was activated by Estates and made a part of the Earnings Stripping Scheme alleged below, Mt. Oscar has never held any Yeung family assets or engaged in any trade or business.
- 28. At the time Estates acquired Mt. Oscar, Kenneth was already a director of both Estates and Holding Company. After Estates acquired Mt. Oscar, Kenneth was also made a director of Mt. Oscar.
- 29. In 2015, without Kenneth's knowledge or involvement, the Director Defendants, certain other Yeung family members, and their advisors developed the Earning Stripping Scheme and used Mt. Oscar to give the Earning Stripping Scheme a facade of legitimacy. Kenneth is informed and believes that the other Director Defendants, and certain other Yeung family members are complicit in and aid and abet the Earning Stripping Scheme.

28 1///

Rutan & Tucker, LLP attorneys at law

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

- The Earnings Stripping Scheme these individuals conspired to enact 30. involves Holding Company paying certain Advisor Fees to Mt. Oscar to (1) decrease Holding Company's U.S. tax liability from the operations of Holding Company's U.S. subsidiaries; and (2) increase cash payments from the U.S. real estate assets held in Holding Company's U.S. subsidiaries to certain Yeung family members by (a) causing Holding Company to pay yearly multi-million dollar Advisor Fees to Mt. Oscar, which in turn would remit the Advisor Fees proceeds to Yeung family members; and (b) causing Holding Company to claim tax deductions for such payment as business expenses. Additionally, payment of these so-called Advisor Fees payments pre-tax would allow certain Yeung family members to "double dip." The Advisor Fee payments would make more of Holding Company's earnings available for payment to certain Yeung family members than otherwise required by their respective ownership percentages in Estates by creating a "pre-tax earnings" payment to these certain Yeung family members, thereby reducing the "post-tax" earnings to be distributed to all shareholders of Estates, especially the Charity Shareholders.
- 31. Under the Earnings Stripping Scheme, as implemented, neither Mt. Oscar nor anyone on its behalf would actually render any Advisor Services to Holding Company or its subsidiaries. Rather, Mt. Oscar would only appear (in its books and records) to render such services in exchange for payment from Holding Company. Thus, the Advisor Fees payments would accomplish the dual goals of (1) appearing to increase expenses, which would lower Holding Company's U.S. and state tax liability; and (2) increasing cash payments from Holding Company's assets to certain Yeung family members.
- 32. To give the Earnings Stripping Scheme an additional appearance of legitimacy, one or more of the Defendant Directors and persons acting on their behalf including Defendant Fung caused 677 Fifth Avenue Corporation ("677 Corp."), one of Holding Company's many U.S.-based subsidiaries, to retain the

services of U.S.-based attorneys at a global law firm to advise on the "appropriate"

1

4

14

15

13

16

17 18

19 20

21 22

23

24

26 27

arms-length compensation (i.e., the Advisor Fees) to be paid to Mt. Oscar in exchange for the Advisor Services. Upon information and belief, Defendant Fung serves Estates as a U.K. 33. certified accountant and a consultant. However, Defendant Fung has admitted that

received payment for her purported accounting and consulting services from

she has never actually been qualified as a U.K. certified accountant. Still, she has

Holding Company.

- 34. Holding Company's subsidiary 677 Corp., through Defendant Fung, provided the U.S.-based attorneys of the global law firm with a list of activities Mt. Oscar was purportedly planning to perform in consideration for Holding Company's payment of the Advisor Fees. Defendant Fung also provided the attorneys with the total value of assets under Holding Company's management.
- On November 10, 2015, the U.S.-based attorneys of the global law firm issued a memorandum analyzing and evaluating the appropriateness of the Advisor Fees the law firm was told would be paid by Holding Company to Mt. Oscar for Advisor Services (the "Memorandum").
- 36. At that time, the directors of Mt. Oscar were Plaintiff Kenneth, Defendant Howard, and their late brother Alan. Defendant Fung was the financial consultant to Mt. Oscar, and KM Cheung was the company's secretary. On or about March 3, 2016, the Mt. Oscar directors were presented with an advisory services agreement, pursuant to which Mt. Oscar would agree to render Advisory Services to Holding Company in exchange for payment of Advisor Fees (the "Advisor Agreement"). Alan and Defendant Howard presented the conclusions reached by the global law firm in its Memorandum, but the Memorandum was not provided to Kenneth for his review. Alan and Defendant Howard urged approval of the Advisor Agreement. At the time, Kenneth knew that Alan was heavily involved in the Yeung family's U.S. real estate business, and believed that Alan was knowledgeable

about real estate investments and was an ethical businessman.

- 37. Based on the information provided to him concerning the Memorandum, Alan's reputation, Defendant Howard's support, and statements made by other Yeung family members, Kenneth believed that Mt. Oscar would, in fact, render Advisor Services to Holding Company in exchange for reasonable Advisor Fees. On March 3, 2016, the Mt. Oscar directors adopted resolutions approving the Advisor Agreement. This approval was made effective retroactively to April 1, 2015, the date on which Mt. Oscar supposedly began providing Advisor Services to Holding Company.
- 38. Between January 1, 2015 and March 31, 2017, Holding Company paid HK\$113,694,467 to Mt. Oscar in pre-tax Advisor Fees. This total translates into roughly \$14,765,515 in U.S. dollars.²
- 39. Based upon the amounts received by Kenneth, he is informed that Defendants Howard Yeung, Defendant Agnes Yeung, and Yeung Ho Wai Bing received Advisor Fees in the same amounts as Kenneth, and that Kenneth's sisters Yeung Bick Yee, Amy and Yeung Eng Yee, Janet each received as a consultancy fee half of the amount received by Kenneth.
- 40. Financial statements from Mt. Oscar indicate that the bulk of the payments for the supposed Advisor Services that Holding Company paid to Mt. Oscar were split between a purported "Consultancy Fee" and "Director's Remuneration."
- 41. The "Director's Remuneration" amounts were paid to the directors of Mt. Oscar, which included Kenneth, Alan, and Defendant Howard, and after Alan's death, Defendant Agnes (Alan's widow). The "Consultancy Fees" were paid to other Yeung family members that were not directors of Mt. Oscar. Both the Director's Remuneration and Consultancy Fees were paid in consideration for

To calculate this total, an exchange rate of 7.77 HK\$-1 US\$ was applied. This rate was the approximate exchange rate between January 1, 2015 and March 31, 2017.

Advisor Services purportedly rendered pursuant to the Advisor Agreement.

- 42. Although Kenneth received significant "Director's Remuneration" payments, he never rendered any Advisor Services to Holding Company or Mt. Oscar. Moreover, on information and belief, the Director Defendants and Yeung Ho Wai Bing, a director of Mount Oscar, and non-director family members, Yeung Bick Yee, Amy and Yeung Eng Yee, Janet received Advisor Fees payments, but did not render any Advisor Services to Holding Company or Mt. Oscar.
- 43. Although the Advisor Agreement provides that Advisor Fees will be paid to Mr. Oscar, this did not occur. Instead, the Advisor Fees were paid (as "Director's Remuneration" and "Consultancy Fees") directly from Holding Company's bank account in the U.S. by wire transfer or U.S. mail to Kenneth, the Director Defendants, other Yeung family members, and the Director Defendants' advisors. On information and belief, Mt. Oscar never had its own bank account in which Holding Company could deposit the Advisor Fees Mt. Oscar was purportedly due or from which to make the payments that were received by Kenneth, the Director Defendants, other Yeung family members, and the Director Defendants' advisors.
- 44. Upon information and belief, Holding Company claimed deductions for the full amount of the Advisor Fees payments on its U.S. federal and state income tax returns. Upon information and belief, Defendant Howard signed the federal and state tax returns on behalf of Holding Company.
- 45. Although Kenneth voted for the resolution approving the Advisor Agreement, he had concerns regarding whether the Advisor Fees payments might be improper, and whether his receipt of Advisor Fees might be a breach of his fiduciary duties as a director of Holding Company. After his brother Alan's death in September 2016, Kenneth began making inquiries regarding the propriety and legality of the Advisor Fees.

28 1///

Rutan & Tucker, LLP attorneys at law

46. Kenneth became suspicious that the U.S.-based attorneys of the global law firm which provided the Memorandum may not have been provided full and accurate information for a proper analysis of the Advisor Fees issue. By letter dated July 21, 2017, Kenneth requested an explanation of the instructions and information regarding Mt. Oscar's activities that Defendant Fung had provided to the U.S.-based attorneys of the global law firm that drafted the Memorandum. In letters dated September 13 and 18, 2017, Kenneth questioned Defendants Fung and Howard about the same subject after he did not receive a response to his July 21, 2017 letter.

- 47. On September 25, 2017, Defendant Fung finally responded to Kenneth's inquiries by letter. However despite the fact that the law firm's Memorandum was addressed to her Fung claimed ignorance and stated that she had had no legal authority or knowledge to instruct the law firm in its analysis of the Advisor Fees.
- 48. In October 2017, by letter to the directors of Holding Company, Kenneth raised his concerns regarding the propriety of the Advisor Fees payments and other purported expenses that Holding Company was incurring and had purportedly paid for Advisor Services.
- 49. After Kenneth raised these concerns, interactions among Kenneth and Defendants Howard and Fung, as well as Dennis Wong, an advisor to the Yeung family businesses ("Mr. Wong"), became tense. In response to Kenneth's concerns, Defendants Howard and Fung, and Mr. Wong, requested that the U.S.-based attorneys of the global law firm who had previously issued the Memorandum provide an update to the Memorandum based on a revised list of Advisor Services purportedly being performed on Holding Company's behalf.
- 50. However, none of the purported Advisor Services on the revised list were ever performed by Kenneth. Upon information and belief, none of the purported Advisor Services on the revised list were ever performed by Mt. Oscar or by any other person who has received compensation from Holding Company

through the Advisor Fees payments alleged above.

- 51. Kenneth has not received any information indicating that the U.S.-based attorneys of the global law firm were informed of Kenneth's concerns that the Advisor Services were not being performed. Upon information and belief, the U.S.-based attorneys of the global law firm were unaware of the issues involving the Advisor Fees, and concluded that the law firm's initial findings in the Memorandum regarding the appropriateness of the Advisor Fees payments were unchanged.
- 52. Kenneth continued pressing Defendants Howard, Fung, and the other Yeung family members for information relating to whether <u>anyone</u> had <u>ever</u> provided any Advisor Services to Holding Company through Mt. Oscar.
- 53. In response, Kenneth was not re-elected as a member of Estates' board of directors at Estate's annual general meeting in December 2017. Additionally, on January 27, 2018 a Notice of Directors' Meeting (the "Notice") for Mt. Oscar was sent to the Mt. Oscar directors, including Kenneth. The Notice scheduled a director's meeting for January 31, 2018 in Hong Kong and included an agenda item to remove Kenneth as a director of Mt. Oscar. Kenneth is informed and believes Defendant Howard attended this meeting by phone from a location in the United States.
- 54. On January 31, 2018, Kenneth wrote a letter to the directors of Mt. Oscar in which he outlined and detailed his serious concerns about the appropriateness and general legality of the Advisor Fees payments made by Holding Company to Mt. Oscar, given Kenneth's belief that neither Mt. Oscar nor any person actually provided any Advisor Services to Holding Company. He also reiterated that his inquiry into the Advisor Fees payments was done pursuant to his duty as a director of Mount Oscar for the best interest of Estates and its shareholders, including the Charity Shareholders.

28 ///

11 12

13

16

17

15

18

19 20

21 22

23

24

25 26

27

28

- 55. Mt. Oscar's directors did not refute or rebut Kenneth's statements, and did not provide any information to show whether Advisor Services had in fact been performed.
- 56. In retaliation for Kenneth raising important questions regarding the propriety and legality of the Advisor Fees, Defendant Directors attempted to remove Kenneth as a director of Mt. Oscar on March 9, 2018 at an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Board of Directors of Mt. Oscar.
- Kenneth is informed and believes that Hong Kong law requires that a director of a Hong Kong company such as Mr. Oscar in Kenneth's position must receive a written statement explaining the grounds underlying a removal resolution. Kenneth never received such a written statement. Therefore, the Defendant Director's attempted removal of Kenneth as a director of Mt. Oscar was unlawful.
- 58. Because this attempted removal was unlawful, Kenneth filed a lawsuit in Hong Kong seeking redress for his removal from the Mt. Oscar board. Kenneth also filed a lawsuit in Hong Kong regarding his removal as a director of Estates.
- 59. After filing these lawsuits in Hong Kong, Kenneth discovered, through review of Holding Company's Delaware state franchise tax reports, that Holding Company reported that Kenneth had been removed as a director of Holding Company at some point in 2017, after he began making inquiries regarding the Advisor Fees. Kenneth did not receive any notice of any meeting or other action to remove him as a Holding Company director; rather, he discovered the attempted removal as part of his own investigation. Upon information and belief, Kenneth's purported removal was in violation of the director removal procedures required by applicable Delaware law.
- Through further review of additional public filings, Kenneth discovered 60. that in 2017 he had also been removed as director of several other Yeung family U.S. corporations in 2017 without notice.

///

24 64. Kenneth filed this complaint in the United States District Court regarding his removal from Holding Company, and for damages and other relief on

behalf of Holding Company because Holding Company is a U.S. corporation. 26

27 /// ///

28

23

Rutan & Tucker, LLP attorneys at law

Case No. COMPLAINT **DERIVATIVE CLAIMS**

65. Kenneth asserts the following claims derivatively on behalf of Holding Company. At all times mentioned herein, Kenneth was and is shareholder of Estates. Estates is Holding Company's parent company and controls Holding Company, through Estate's ownership and control of Oro BVI and Oro Barbados, as reflected in Exhibit 2. Therefore, Kenneth derivatively brings these claims on Holding Company's behalf pursuant to the concept of multi-tier derivative standing.

claim brought by the shareholder of a parent company (Estates) on behalf of the subsidiary (Holding Company) must satisfy the requirements of the law applicable to the controlling parent entity (Estates). Under Hong Kong law, a shareholder may bring a derivative action involving fraud and oppression of minority shareholders without notice or demand on the board where the board controls the company and would not take corrective action for the benefit of the minority shareholders. Kenneth was not required to make a demand on Holding Company's board prior to bringing this lawsuit because such a demand would be futile given that the Director Defendants control Holding Company, have engaged in self-dealing, fraud and oppression of minority shareholders through the payment of the "Advisor Fees" to the directors of Mt. Oscar: i.e., themselves, and would not act against themselves for the benefit of Kenneth and other minority shareholders who are harmed by the Earnings Stripping Scheme.

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(18 U.S.C. § 1962(c) Civil RICO Claim – By Kenneth on Behalf of Holding Company Against Director Defendants and Mt. Oscar)

67. Kenneth re-alleges and incorporates by this reference paragraphs 1 through 66 of this Complaint.

///

Rutan & Tucker, LLP attorneys at law

2763/034901-0001 12750078.9 a12/19/18 Case No.

COMPLAINT

8

6

12 13

14

15

11

16

17

18

20

22

23

21

24

68. Director Defendants and Mt. Oscar are each "persons" as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 1961(3).

- 69. Holding Company is an "enterprise" as defined by 18 U.S.C. § 1961, engaged in and whose activities affect interstate commerce. Director Defendants are the corporate directors of Holding Company. Mt. Oscar is an "enterprise" as defined by 18 U.S.C. § 1961, engaged in and whose activities affect interstate commerce.
- 70. The Director Defendants and Mt. Oscar agreed to and did participate in the conduct of Holding Company's affairs through multiple related acts constituting a pattern of racketeering activity and for the unlawful purpose of furthering the Earnings Stripping Scheme as alleged above.
- 71. Pursuant to and in furtherance of the Earnings Stripping Scheme, the Director Defendants and Mt. Oscar knowingly, and with intent, devised and are perpetuating a scheme to defraud the United States government of tax revenues by using the mail and interstate wire communications, including telephone, internet and financial wire transmissions, to obtain corporate approval of the Earnings Stripping Scheme, to pay materially false Advisor Fees, to claim materially false expenses in the form of Advisor Fees without providing Advisory Services, and to transmit false tax information to tax preparers and the United States government, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1341 (mail fraud) and 18 U.S.C. § 1343 (wire fraud), and which also violates 26 U.S.C. 7201 (evading or defeating tax), and 26 U.S.C § 7206 (fraud and false statements).
- 72. Pursuant to and in furtherance of the Earnings Stripping Scheme, the Director Defendants and Mt. Oscar knowingly, and with intent, devised and are perpetuating a scheme to conceal or disguise the nature of funds falsely characterized as Advisor Fees to lower Holding Company's taxable income to defraud the United States government of tax revenues in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1956 (money laundering), which conduct also violates 26 U.S.C. § 7201 and 7206.

28 ///

Rutan & Tucker, LLP attorneys at law

2763/034901-0001 12750078.9 a12/19/18

-20-

Case No. COMPLAINT

2763/034901-0001 12750078.9 a12/19/18

- 78. Director Defendants and Mt. Oscar are each "persons" as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 1961(3).
- 79. Holding Company is an "enterprise" as defined by 18 U.S.C. § 1961, engaged in and whose activities affect interstate commerce. Director Defendants are the corporate directors of Holding Company. Mt. Oscar is an "enterprise" as defined by 18 U.S.C. § 1961, engaged in and whose activities affect interstate commerce.
- 80. As set forth above, the Director Defendants and Mt. Oscar agreed and conspired to violate 18 U.S.C. § 1962(c). Specifically, Director Defendants conspired to use the U.S. Postal Service, telephones, and the Internet in furtherance of the Earnings Stripping Scheme to pay the Advisor Fees to Mt. Oscar and, indirectly, themselves for activities neither they nor Mt. Oscar completed on behalf of Holding Company, and to improperly claim the Advisor Fees as deductions on Holding Company's federal and state tax returns. Director Defendants and Mt. Oscar conspired to engage in the Earnings Stripping Scheme by approving and facilitating it, and by causing Holding Company to pay improper Advisor Fees, evade payment of taxes required by U.S. law, and thereby allow the Director Defendants to personally receive larger payouts from Holding Company.
- 81. The Director Defendants and Mt. Oscar have knowingly and intentionally conspired and agreed to conduct and participate in the conduct of the affairs of Holding Company through a pattern of racketeering activity reflected in the Earnings Stripping Scheme. The Director Defendants and Mt. Oscar knew that their predicate acts were part of a pattern of racketeering activity and agreed to the commission of those acts to further the Earnings Stripping Scheme described above. That conduct constitutes a conspiracy to violate 18 U.S.C. § 1962(c) as alleged above, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1962(d).
- 82. Holding Company suffered and will continue to suffer direct injury to its business and property as a direct and proximate result of the Director Defendants' and Mt. Oscar's racketeering activities and violations of 18 U.S.C.

2763/034901-0001

12750078 9 a12/19/18

1	applicable state laws.		
2	88.	There	efore, the Court should:
3		a.	Order Director Defendants to pay compensatory damages and
4			punitive damages to Holding Company in an amount to be
5			proven at trial for the Director Defendants' breach of the duty of
6			loyalty, plus interest;
7		b.	Order Director Defendants to return all Advisor Fee payments
8			they received to Holding Company, plus interest, as restitution;
9		c.	Issue an order reinstating Kenneth to his position as director of
10			Holding Company;
11		d.	Issue an order removing Director Defendants as directors of
12			Holding Company;
13		e.	Issue an order appointing one or more independent directors to
14			Holding Company's board of directors;
15		f.	Issue an injunction requiring Holding Company and Director
16			Defendants to cease making any Advisor Fee payments to Mt.
17			Oscar or any other entity or individual; and
18		g.	Issue an injunction requiring the Director Defendants to
19			immediately return any and all Advisor Fee payments they
20	,		received to Holding Company.
21			
22			FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF
23	(Breach Of Duty Of Good Faith – By Kenneth on Behalf of Holding Company		
24			Against Director Defendants)
25	89.	Kenr	eth re-alleges and incorporates by this reference paragraphs 1
26	through 88 of this Complaint.		
27	90. Director Defendants are directors of Holding Company. In accordance		
28	with their fi	iduciar	y duty of good faith owed to Holding Company as Holding
P			

2763/034901-0001 12750078.9 a12/19/18 -25- COMPLAINT

2763/034901-0001 12750078.9 a12/19/18

1		b.	Order Director Defendants to return all Advisor Fee payments
2			they received to Holding Company, plus interest, as restitution;
3		c.	Issue an order reinstating Kenneth to his position as director of
4			Holding Company;
5		d.	Issue an order removing Director Defendants as directors of
6			Holding Company;
7		e.	Issue an order appointing one or more independent directors to
8			Holding Company's board of directors;
9		f.	Issue an injunction requiring Holding Company and Director
10			Defendants to cease making any Advisor Fee payments to Mt.
11			Oscar or to any other entity or individual; and
12		g.	Issue an injunction requiring the Director Defendants to
13			immediately return any and all Advisor Fee payments they
14			received to Holding Company.
15			
16			SIXTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF
17	(Declarato	ry Rel	ief – By Kenneth on Behalf of Holding Company To Establish
18			The Advisor Fees Were Illegally Paid
19			in Violation of Federal and State Law)
20	99.	Kenn	eth re-alleges and incorporates by this reference paragraphs 1
21	through 98 of this Complaint.		
22	100.	Kenn	eth, on behalf of Holding Company, contends that the Advisor
23	Fees were illegally paid to Mt. Oscar in violation of federal and state law and should		
24	be returned	to Hol	ding Company.
25	101.	Upon	information and belief, Director Defendants contend that the
26	Advisor Fee	es were	e properly paid for the Advisor Services Mt. Oscar purportedly
27	provided to	Holdin	ng Company.
28	///		

1 102. Kenneth, on behalf of Holding Company, seeks a declaration that the 2 Advisor Fees payments made by Holding Company were illegally made in violation of federal and state law and should be returned to Holding Company. 4 5 <u>INDIVIDUAL CLAIMS</u> 103. Kenneth brings the claims below on his own behalf. 6 7 SEVENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF 8 (Attempted Wrongful Removal Pursuant to 8 Delaware 9 Code, § 225 – Against Director Defendants and for Declaratory Relief) 10 104. Kenneth re-alleges and incorporates by this reference paragraphs 1 through 103 of this Complaint. 11 12 105. At all relevant times, Kenneth was a director of Holding Company, 13 which is a Delaware corporation governed by Delaware law. 14 106. Pursuant to 8 Delaware Code, § 225, only the shareholders of a 15 Delaware corporation have the power to vote to remove corporate directors. 16 107. Oro Barbados is the sole shareholder of Holding Company. Kenneth is unaware of any action by Oro Barbados to remove Kenneth as a director of Holding 17 18 Company. Kenneth did not receive any notice of a meeting of (a) Holding Company's shareholder Oro Barbados (or its directors), (b) Oro Barbados' shareholder Oro BVI (or its directors), or (c) any notice of a meeting of Oro BVI's 20 shareholder Estates (or its directors). Having not received any such notices, 21 22 Kenneth did not participate in any director or shareholder vote to remove him as a 23 director of Holding Company. 24 108. Upon information and belief, at some point in 2017, notwithstanding 25 lack of any such notices, the Director Defendants purported to take action to remove 26 Kenneth as a director of Holding Company. As a result, Kenneth has been deprived 27 of the right to participate as a Holding Company director and to protect his interests as a shareholder of Estates, including receipt as a shareholder of lawful income

Rutan & Tucker, LLP attorneys at law

2763/034901-0001 12750078.9 a12/19/18

-28-

1	derived from Holding Company's ownership of real property in California, New		
2	York and elsewhere.		
3	109. Thus, Director Defendants' attempted removal of Kenneth as director		
4	of Holding Company was wrongful and is void under 8 Delaware Code, § 225.		
5	110. Therefore, the Court should:		
6	a. Issue an order declaring the Director Defendants' conduct		
7	unlawful and void, and invalidating any purported removal of		
8	Kenneth's as director of Holding Company;		
9	b. If necessary, issue an order reinstating Kenneth to his position as		
10	director of Holding Company; and		
11	c. Issue an order appointing one or more independent directors to		
12	Holding Company's board of directors to prevent interference		
13	with Kenneth's service as a director of Holding Company.		
14			
15	EIGHTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF		
16	(Declaratory Relief – Kenneth Is Not Liable		
17	For Director Defendants' Actions)		
18	111. Kenneth re-alleges and incorporates by this reference paragraphs 1		
19	through 110 of this Complaint.		
20	112. There is an actual and existing justiciable controversy between Kenneth		
21	and Director Defendants relating to Kenneth's potential liability for Director		
22	Defendants' illegal actions in furtherance of the Earnings Stripping Scheme alleged		
23	above.		
24	113. Kenneth contends that he is not liable or responsible for the Director		
25	Defendants' actions in connection with the Earnings Stripping Scheme because he		
26	did not knowingly participate in those actions, and has sought to remedy the		
27	consequences as alleged above.		
28			

2763/034901-0001 12750078.9 a12/19/18 -29- COMPLAINT

1	f.	Restitution and disgorge	ement of unjust enrichment, plus interest,	
2		pursuant to all appropriate causes of action;		
3	g.	A declaratory judgment that the Advisor Fees paid by Holding		
4		Company to Mt. Oscar were illegal under the laws of the U.S.;		
5	h.	A declaratory judgment that Kenneth is not liable for Director		
6		Defendants' actions in furtherance of the Earnings Stripping		
7		Scheme;		
8	i.	An order invalidating K	enneth's removal as a director of	
9		Holding Company;		
10	j.	An order reinstating Ker	nneth to his position as director of	
11		Holding Company;		
12	k.	An order removing Dire	ector Defendants as directors of Holding	
13		Company;		
14	1.	An order appointing one or more independent directors to		
15		Holding Company's board of directors;		
16	m.	For an award of attorneys' fees and costs, pursuant to all		
17		appropriate causes of action;		
18	n.	For such other and further relief as this Court deems just and		
19		proper.		
20				
21	Dated: December	_19, 2018 R	UTAN & TUCKER, LLP IARK B. FRAZIER	
22		Ç	OREY H. COLLINS	
23		В	y:/s/Mark B. Frazier	
24			Mark B. Frazier	
25			Attorneys for Plaintiff YEUNG BING KWONG KENNETH	
26				
27				
28				
LLP				

-31-

Rutan & Tucker, LLF attorneys at law

2763/034901-0001 12750078.9 a12/19/18

1	JURY TRIAL DEMAND		
2	Plaintiff Kenneth Yeung demands a trial by jury of all issues so triable on the		
3	claims alleged herein.		
4	Dated: December 19, 2018 RUT	TAN & TUCKER, LLP RK B. FRAZIER REY H. COLLINS	
5	COI	REY H. COLLINS	
6	By:	/s/ Mark B. Frazier	
7		Mark B. Frazier Attorneys for Plaintiff YEUNG BING KWONG KENNETH	
8		YEUNG BING KWONG KENNETH	
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			
21			
22			
23			
24			
25			
26			
27			
28 Rutan & Tucker, LLP			
attorneys at law	2763/034901-0001	Case No.	

COMPLAINT